

# Assignment TV

By **TERRENCE O'FLAHERTY**

Sebastian Cabot seems to be almost completely round. As I write this, I can see him sitting opposite me at lunch—exactly half a circle in sight about the table top. Somewhere near the center of his beard is a tiny red mouth which stays open as he chews.

"I've lost 50 pounds," he said. "Haven't you noticed how thin I am? A bare 225 pounds. But I still have the same fat manner. I've been fat all my life. Do you know there's such a thing as a fat man's voice? A good radio director can pick it out immediately.

"Oh dear, do you suppose that I'm so thin they'll begin giving me lover roles? Well, fat men DO fall in love and marry. I don't even know

how to hold a girl and I think I'd be too embarrassed to try. . . . Cabot's "Family Affair," a situation comedy based on the life of a bachelor and his manservant who attempt to raise three orphans, was the most popular new show on CBS last season. After the first few weeks it replaced "Rat Patrol" as the top show and at times was even ahead of "Bonanza."

ONE OF THE most amusing aspects of the series is Cabot's relation to youngsters—a mixture of W. C. Fields and Emily Post.

"The children are completely unspoiled—so far. There are no stage mothers. Well, there's one mother who has the beginnings of one.

She tells her child to scratch herself while I'm talking. But we never have trouble with the kids."

One of the youngsters is Anissa Jones, the 9-year-old who made one of the recent Emmy awards. "She's an elderly 9," said Cabot. "A mid-get. The other day one of the publicity men asked her to pose for a picture in her swimsuit but she replied: 'I don't know whether I feel like exposing my body today.'"

"Family Affair" is being shot at faster than usual speed to accommodate Brian Keith who can spend only 75 working days of the series each year.

"THIS MEANS that Keith is playing around at home with the kids while I'm working my tail off with the kids. When he comes to the studio we do all the scenes that he's in. It's not as bad for us as it seems but it is terrible for the people who have to plan the shooting schedule. It's an assembly line operation.

"We spend about 2.8 days per script—which is about

the same speed we worked on the old "Checkmate" series which took us five days to film an hour-long show. The children slow us down a bit. They're good in the morning but tend to slow down in the afternoon.

"I'm very slow at learning lines and it makes me furious to watch Keith. He takes a

look at the script and knows it at once. I spend all week-end memorizing mine. We use cue cards when we can but usually we're working too fast. I understand that Walter Brennan has all his lines on cards. Rehearsal is a thing of the past, I'm afraid, unless you're a big star. As your sta-

ture increases you get more rehearsal time."

"Is there any chance that Keith may get married in the show and you might lose your job?" I asked.

"No, if he got married I

rather imagine he'd lose HIS job."

**PONDEROSA**  
Ponderosa, reports National Automobile Club, is one type of tomato.

**New Patient**  
Joyce Piekutowski, 15-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Piekutowski, of 3314 Onrado St., has been admitted to Orthopaedic Hospital in Los Angeles.

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Kellogg's Pop Tarts 11-oz. pkg. **45¢**

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ALL 5 VARIETIES **Magic Chef Cake Mixes** 4 19-oz. pkgs. **\$1**

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REG. \$12.49 FULL HALF GALLON

# \$11.39

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